

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /082 W
-----086982 190231Z /65

R 181515Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1143

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12022

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: UR, US, CA

SUBJECT: GROMYKO ON BREZHNEV; AUG 16 TOAST AND U.S.-SOVIET
RELATIONS

REF: MOSCOW 11905

1. CANADIAN DCM HAS GIVEN US FOLLOWING READOUT OF 30
MINUTE AUG 17 CALL ON GROMYKO BY CANADIAN AMBASSADOR FORD --
HIS FIRST IN SOME EIGHT MONTHS AND SEVERAL MONTHS AFTER
FORD HAD REQUESTED IT TO DELIVER LETTER FROM CANADIAN
FOREIGN MINISTER.

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2. WHEN FORD ASKED WHETHER BREZHNEV'S AUG 16 TOAST TO
TITO WAS INTENDED AS A POSITIVE GESTURE TO WASHINGTON
(A WIDESPREAD INTERPRETATION AMONG FOREIGN OBSERVERS
HERE), GROMYKO DID NOT REPLY DIRECTLY. HE SAID
THERE WERE OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPLE AND
THE FUTURE WAS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT. DURING AND AFTER

VLADIVOSTOK, MAJOR AGREEMENTS HAD BEEN REACHED AND THE HORIZON LOOKED PROMISING. BUT NOW THERE WAS A NEW MASTER (KHOZYAIN) IN THE WHITE HOUSE. PRESIDENT CARTER HAD TWO POSITIONS. ONE WAS VERY POSITIVE AND THE OTHER WAS DIFFERENT -- "I CAN'T TELL WHAT THE FORECAST IS."

3. ON BELGRADE CSCE GROMYKO SAID THE SOVIETS WOULD DISCOURSE ALONG THEIR TRACK AND THE U.S. ALONG ITS OWN. HE HOPED THE RESULTS WOULD BE CONSTRUCTIVE BUT THE U.S. WAS KNOWN TO VACILLATE IN ITS POSITION.

4. GROMYKO WOULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT FURTHER. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, WHO WAS PRESENT, HE SEEMED OLD, TIRED AND LIMPID; HIS ATTENTION SEEMED DISTRACTED AND HIS MIND SEEMED TO WANDER. THE ONLY TIME HE EVINced A VIGOROUS REACTION WAS WHEN FORD ASKED WHETHER IN AMERICAN PARLANCE THE BALL WAS IN THE U.S. COURT. GROMYKO RESPONDED EMPHATICALLY, "YES, IT IS ABSOLUTELY IN THE U.S. COURT."

5. WHEN IN CLOSING FORD, REFERRING TO THE UPCOMING UNGA SESSION, COMMENTED THAT THERE WAS A BUSY SCHEDULE AHEAD FOR AUTUMN, GROMYKO AGREED BUT SAID THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENT WAS "OCTOBER," MEANING THE NOVEMBER CELEBRATION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION.
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6. WHILE GROMYKO AVOIDED DIRECT CONFIRMATION THAT BREZHNEV'S TOAST WAS A POSITIVE SIGNAL TO WASHINGTON, HIS REMARKS (LIKE THOSE OF ARBATOV AND OF COURSE BREZHNEV HIMSELF) STAND IN MARKED CONTRAST TO THE HIGHLY EMOTIONAL ANTI-U.S. PITCH MADE TO FORD BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ZEMSKOV DURING A LENGTHY LUNCH ON AUGUST 5. REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING INFORMALLY, ZEMSKOV LAUNCHED INTO AN IMPASSIONED ATTACK ELABORATING FAMILIAR LINES:

-- IT WAS INCOMPREHENSIBLE THAT A SUPPOSEDLY RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT COULD DISREGARD THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT;

-- THE DEMOCRATS WERE ALIGNED WITH THE INDUSTRIAL-MILITARY COMPLEX AND UNDERMINING THE REPUBLICAN POLICY OF DETENTE;

-- THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN WAS A FORM OF IDEOLOGICAL WARFARE ACTIVELY DIRECTED BY THE CIA WHICH SEEKS TO UNDERMINE THE SOVIET SYSTEM BY PROPAGANDA

GANDA AS WELL AS BY THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW STRATEGIC
AND OTHER WEAPONS SYSTEMS;

-- AFTER WATERGATE AND VIETNAM THE U.S. WAS
REVERTING TO THE OLD PATTERN OF SEEKING A DOMINANT
ROLE AND A POSITION OF STRENGTH;

-- THE U.S. SALT PACKAGE WAS A CALCULATED ATTEMPT
TO GAIN UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE (HERE HE HELD FORTH AT
GREAT LENGTH ON THE USSR BEING SURROUNDED BY U.S.
TACTICAL WEAPONS);

-- MANY EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND OTHERS WANT DETENTE
AND THE U.S. STANDS ISOLATED.
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